

tion, both Professors and Students were favoured by Providence with general good health.

Your Committee have still to renew the expression of their desire that ministers and other friends of our Seminary would continue to interest themselves in its welfare and the extension of its usefulness. One means is by exciting pious and talented youths to devote themselves to the service of Christ in the Gospel. Yourself know as well as the Committee the necessities of this great country. Another is, by stimulating congregations or individuals whom God has blessed with large worldly substance, to assist young men who are worthy of encouragement in meeting the expenses of their education. During the years of their attendance on the classes they necessarily abandon the opportunities of acquiring worldly gain, or if capable of doing something towards their support by engaging in the work of Teachers or Catechists, still such engagements seldom place them entirely beyond the need of aid from other sources. Cases occur in which, to the loss of the Church, young men, honourably desirous of maintaining themselves, either interrupt their attendance at the classes, or suffer in their health by their multifarious labours. While, therefore, aware how desirable it is to cherish the spirit of laudable independence in students as well as others, your Committee but accord in the sense of the Church in all ages, and assert the result of all experience, when they remind their fellow Christians addicted to good works, that no offering of Christian love is more called for than the proffering of aid to young men struggling with narrow circumstances, yet with honest purpose, choosing, from love to Christ and to souls, a vocatio yielding no present temporal return, however rich in the prospect of spiritual returns in due season.

In this conviction your Committee have much pleasure in acknowledging the continued liberality of individuals and congregations to the Bursary fund. Some congregations have charged themselves with the entire support of one or more students, whom they may be said to have sent to the College. It may not be too much to expect that some others may be induced to follow their good example, and if they will put themselves in communication with our Treasurer, he will be happy to supply them with all information on the subject. Parties thus charging themselves with the support of a particular student from their own locality, may possibly take a livelier interest in his progress, and may be able to estimate more generally the result of their benevolent appropriations. But whether by thus individualizing their aid, or contributing to the fund generally, we feel that in whole or in part, a considerable class of students must look for encouragement to other sources than either their own scanty means, or of their immediate relatives; and we know few ways, in which Christians whom the Lord has prospered, can better manifest interest in the prosperity of the Church.

It now remains that we should indicate briefly the points to which the Committee would suggest that the attention of the Synod should be turned.

First, in immediate connection with what has been last mentioned, it may be well to consider if any thing definite could be effected to increase the Bursary fund, or to enable students to meet the expenses of their education without harassing anxiety. In reference to the same subject the question of increasing the allowance to those employed during summer as Catechists will no doubt be considered.

Secondly, provision being now made at University College for the preliminary education of the young men, on a plan that meets the case of our entrants more than heretofore, the time seems to have come, when it is unnecessary to embrace in the internal plan of Knox's College, arrangements for giving instruction to students

in the first year of their literary course. Thus, what has all along been in view, the making of our own College a purely Theological Institution, is so much nearer to being realized, and the wishes expressed at last meeting of Synod gratified.

But, though the office of a Tutor is thus superseded, yet on the supposition that some one is still required to head the boarding establishment, it has been suggested that in addition to the duties of that department, Mr. Smith, or the party undertaking that charge, might still render valuable supplementary service under the direction of the Professors' Court, in the capacity of a private Tutor to such of the students as may require his assistance, from their having enjoyed less advantage in their particular localities for making the usual preparation for College. This instruction, however, will not be understood by the students as constituting any part of the required curriculum, or as superseding attendance at same time at University College; nor as being meant by us to encourage students to neglect to take advantage of grammar schools, where provided, previous to their coming up to the College seat. The Synod will feel it right to consider on what terms the present Tutor may still be retained in these capacities in connection with our Institution.

Another subject to which we respectfully call attention, is the examination of students. First, as regards the respective shares of responsibility which should be borne by the College Committee, and by Presbyteries; secondly, as regards the proposal of a Central Board of Examiners.

In connection with this, a desire, it may be stated, is felt that the relations of the College Committee generally to the Theological Institute, should be more precisely defined.

Again, it may be necessary to pass more specific rules defining the limits within which students should be required to act as Catechists or Missionaries, while yet in the course of their education. Especially, the demands on their services during the College Session have, it is felt, been carried to a degree injurious to their progress. Considering the larger number of preachers now available for the work of the Church, it becomes a question whether any other than the senior students should be called on for such service at all; and as to them, it seems expedient that the amount of service to be expected, or even permitted to be undertaken by them, should be distinctly understood. A rule existed in former years by which students were not expected to go out to supply churches more than six Sabbaths during one session. This has been greatly exceeded. Indeed, during last winter, some students were engaged—preaching every alternate Sabbath, or still more frequently. The long journeys occasionally lost the opportunities for receiving valuable instruction at the classes; and labours in the city or its vicinity also deducted from their time the power of applying their minds to their appropriate studies. A considerable addition to their distractions in this way arises from applications being often made to them directly, which the young men are averse to decline, rather than convinced that it is their duty to comply with them. It seems essentially necessary that there should be an end of such interferences; and that, besides re-establishing some such rule as formerly existed, it should be understood that all applications for extra service by any student, in the way of supplying pulpits of Ministers, should be first submitted to their Professors, and only allowed with their approbation and consent.

The Committee anticipate on another point the ready assent of the Synod; that is, as regards the change required in the time of commencing and closing Session term. In order to accommodate our arrangements to those of University College, it has become necessary to substitute 1st October for 1st November; and by substituting 1st April for 1st May, the students

will still be available for the same proportion of the year as before, for the work of Missionaries or Teachers during vacation of course, the present summer is an exception, the recess being shorter for this time by one month, on the supposition of their re-opening on 1st October next.

It only remains to advert again, in the close of this report, to the proposed improvements on the College premises. Plans will be laid before the Synod by the competent parties. In addition to enlarged accommodation for the students it has been suggested that advantage might be taken of the vacant ground, now the property of the Church, for the erection of dwelling houses for the Professors. The great advance in the rate of rental on houses in Toronto, as well as on the expense of living generally, will recommend some such proposal; and the Committee doubt not that the whole question of College repairs, or building will be sustained with the same spirit of liberality which has already called forth such prompt compliance with the proposal to purchase a College property, instead of continuing to depend on leased premises.

If at length, a call is made on the Church, for exertions on a larger scale in behalf of its Theological Seminary, it will at least be allowed that the parties more immediately interested forbore, from year to year, to press the claim for better accommodation than those leased premises afforded; deferring to the convenience of the Synod, and to the other objects of common interest which seemed to have a prior claim on the Church's attention. The exertions now expected have not been asked till after the means and resources of the Church have been greatly increased; it being not too much to assume that our congregations have been sharing in the general prosperity of the Province; and, finally, it is satisfactory to your Committee, that all these suggestions come before a Synod now largely composed of former pupils of the College Institute for which we are now reporting; who know its desiderata, as well as appreciate its value, and who will not fail to sustain it by their active exertions and prayers.

M. WILLIS, *Convenor.*

When people will not learn, it is just with God to remove their teachers into corners.

Many get very comfortably through this world, that know very little how the world goes.

REPORT ON PUBLICATION AND COLPORTAGE.

In presenting their Report your Committee have much pleasure in stating that active and enlarged efforts have been displayed by some of the Presbyteries in the distribution of a sound Theological Literature. The Presbyteries of London, Montreal, and Hamilton have had Colporteurs employed within their bounds to the number of 20 and upwards. There are now in the field about 13—of whom several are students of Knox's College, who are employing a part of the summer vacation in this good work. Thousands of families have been visited during this period, and with the most of these the Colporteurs have held religious conversations. Books to the number of many thousands have been sold; chiefly the publications of Nelson & Sons, Carter & Brothers, and the Presbyterian Board of Publication, Philadelphia. In this way much precious seed of the kingdom has already been scattered, which may yet bring forth fruit thirty-fold. But those more immediately engaged in the work, feel increasingly the necessity of a